

Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. today released the following statement after former Governor George Ryan was found guilty in federal court on all 18 criminal charges:

"This is a sad day for the people of our state that the former chief executive, George Ryan, was found guilty on all charges against him. Today's guilty verdict sends shock waves throughout our state and country.

"Indeed, this verdict sends a clear, serious and sobering message to all of those who pursue careers in public service - no one is above the law, nor should they be. Those who serve the public trust must not abuse it.

"While George Ryan will exercise his rights and seek an appeal, the guilty verdict makes it clear that the culture of corruption long associated with Illinois, and especially Chicago, will no longer be tolerated. The era of pay-to-play politics, masquerading as good government, is drawing to a close.

"While remembering him as a Governor who advanced the prospects of a third airport, supported responsible gun control and raised moral objections to the application of the death penalty, Ryan's reputation and legacy will be permanently tarnished by widespread corruption and abuse."